**Personal Best**

Our theme for the term is ***Personal Best***. That means that we try to do the best possible, in our areas of endeavour. **Personal best** means to strive to improve, and to build on our successes. It is the key to success in all aspects of our life- school, sport, personal and social- to try to be the best we can be.

**This short assignment is asking you to research two people from separate categories who are a high achiever in their fields of endeavour; people who have had obstacles put in their way but have striven to achieve their best, and have overcome these obstacles.**

There is a famous saying - 'genius is one % inspiration and 99% perspiration' Great people tend to be persistent, determined and unperturbed by set back and defeat. If we look at people who achieved in their fields of endeavour, we see great characters who persisted even in the most difficult circumstances. For example, Nelson Mandela who spent most of his life in jail or fighting the injustice of the apartheid system. He could easily have chosen an easier option in life.  
  
Persistence should not be a stubborn persistence that ignores when you have made a mistake or are in the wrong. Persistence is valuable when we never give up dreaming of becoming a better person and making the world a better place.

**Choose one of the follow people and read about them to understand their challenges.**

Scientists

Albert Einstein, John Cornforth, Fred Hollows, Madame Curie

World Leaders

Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Napoleon Bonaparte, Indira Ghandi, Maggie Thatcher

Explorers

Christopher Columbus, Mathew Flinders, Douglas Mawson, Andy Thomas, Robyn Davidson, Jessica Watson

Social Reformers and activists

Malala Yousafzai, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Eddie Mabo, Stella Young,

Helen Keller, Mahtma Gandhi, Rosie Batty

Inventors

Bill Gates, Louis Braille

Musicians

Ludwig Beethoven, Ray Charles, Chrissie Amphlett

Writers

J.K. Rowlings, Colleen McCollough, Christy Brown

Sportspersons

Dennis Lillee, Cathy Freeman, John Landy, Phar Lap, Matt Cowdrey, Anna Meares,

Yvonne Goolagong Cawley, Kurt Fernley,

**Activities**

1. From two different categories choose one person to research.
2. Find and acknowledge at least **three** sources of information about your person
3. Make a summary of your information under the following headings
4. Early life
5. Their dream
6. Failures and achievements/successes
7. Obstacles and difficulties to be overcome
8. Personal qualities, strengths and weaknesses
9. Impact/ benefits and effect on society or other people
10. Find an image or series of images relevant to your person
11. Once you have collected your information, use it to complete a poster/assignment/presentation on each of your people (or in the case of Phar Lap, your horse.)